

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

November 21, 2003

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Information Bulletin No. OF&A 2004-018

To: Assistant Directors, State Directors and Center Managers
From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation
Subject: 2003 National Fire Plan Awards Call for Nominations

In 2003, the National Fire Plan made significant strides towards meeting its overarching goal of minimizing wildland fire threats to communities and the environment. Over 2.6 million acres of hazardous fuels were treated across the nation, 1,200 community fire plans funded, and a wildland firefighting workforce of close to 18,000 personnel maintained.

These accomplishments represent the hard work of those land managers and community members who continue to be committed to the goals of the National Fire Plan. A few have gone above and beyond the course of their duties, exceeding all expectations and hopes, and it is these individuals and groups that deserve special recognition.

Six National Fire Plan awards will recognize outstanding accomplishments related to the National Fire Plan implementation in 2003. Founded on the Plan's key points, these awards are:

1. Excellence in Collaboration (new in 2003)
2. Excellence in Firefighter Preparedness, Safety and Training,
3. Excellence in Rehabilitation and Restoration,
4. Excellence in Hazardous Fuel Treatment,
5. Excellence in Community Assistance, and
6. Innovation in Utilization of Biomass (new in 2003).

The awards will be presented at the National Fire Plan annual meeting, March 3-5, 2004, in Reno, Nevada (registration information for this meeting can be found at: www.fireplan.gov).

If applicable, projects may be nominated for more than one award category. However, there must be a separate nomination package submitted for each category for which the project is being nominated, with each nomination package addressing the unique criteria for that category.

All award nominations will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers. The category-specific criteria will be judged on the nominated project's overall scope, or significance (e.g., nationally-

significant projects will be ranked higher than locally or individually-significant projects), degree of innovation, degree to which collaboration and partnerships were employed, and temporal significance (e.g., those projects that produce long-term benefits will be ranked higher than those that produce short-term benefits). Please see the following for award categories, criteria, and information regarding the nomination process. This award information will also be available on the National Fire Plan's website, www.fireplan.gov

Signed by:
Deborah K. Rawhouser
Acting Director
Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:
Pat Lewis
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.
Office Services

Attachment

Award Nomination Information (6 pp)

Distribution:

Acting Fire Program Advisor, FA-101, WO
OF&A Management Team
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Excellence in Collaboration

This award recognizes an individual or group for outstanding work in collaboration as a means for meeting the goals of the National Fire Plan. *This category is open to projects that have been completed since the National Fire Plan's inception in late 2000.* The recipient will have demonstrated the results, innovation, and commitment to meeting the National Fire Plan's goals (firefighting, rehabilitation and restoration, hazardous fuel reduction, community assistance, accountability) in a collaborative spirit that engages public and private partners alike. Ultimately, the recipient's work led to new partnerships that work towards more effective wildland fire management, increased firefighter safety, reduced wildland fire risk to communities and natural resources, and/or restored health to forests and rangeland.

Nominee

Individual or Group

Nomination Process

Due to delays in mail delivery procedures in Washington, D.C., we request nominations be sent **either** by email to sdupree@fs.fed.us, fax to Simone Dupree (202-690-5774), OR Federal Express to:

Simone Dupree, USDA-FS
Yates Building 1 NW
201 14th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Nominations must be received **no later than December 15, 2003**. No late nominations will be accepted.

Nominations will be accepted from any individual or group, on behalf of any individual or group, involved in implementing the National Fire Plan, whether federal, state, tribal or local government, partners such as associations or established organizations, contractors, or others. A panel of evaluators will review and recommend final selection of nominees.

Nomination Package:

Nominations must include:

1. A cover page with: a) the title of the award, b) the name, address, email and phone number of person submitting the nomination, c) the name, address, agency or organization, and phone number of the nominee (individual or group), and d) the signatures of the nominee's immediate supervisor and second-level supervisor acknowledging the nomination.
2. One page or less describing the project, work or accomplishment and its significance to the National Fire Plan at the National, Regional or Local Level (please reference "*A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: 10 year Comprehensive Strategy*"). Include where and when the work occurred, who was involved, how it was planned and implemented, and why the work was important.
3. Two pages or less in which each of the nomination criterion are addressed separately.

Criteria

Each nomination will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Describe how an individual's or group's work led to new collaboration aimed towards setting priorities, establishing common goals or understandings, improving planning or preparedness, expanding outreach or education, reducing program costs and/or environmental impacts, and/or enhancing community or firefighter safety in furtherance of the National Fire Plan goals.
2. Describe who was involved, what their role was, and how this collaboration enhanced the work or project. Describe the nature of the partnerships that were formed (i.e., did they involve national, regional, and/or local partners?) and the degree to which these partners were involved with the project planning, implementation, and evaluation.
3. Discuss any unusual or unique aspects of the effort or accomplishment, such as difficulties that were overcome, challenges faced, or creative solutions developed as a result of the partnership(s).

Excellence in Firefighter Preparedness, Safety, and Training

This award recognizes an individual or group for outstanding work in improving or enhancing wildland firefighter preparedness, safety, and training. *This category is open to projects that were largely completed during calendar year 2003.* The recipient will have developed procedures, training, guidelines, equipment, outreach, or other measures or mechanisms, or demonstrated results, innovation, collaboration, or commitment to enhance firefighter training, increase safety, or improve preparedness by increasing the capability to prevent, detect, and/or provide suppression on wildfires.

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Individual or Group

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3. Two pages or less in which each of the nomination criterion are addressed separately.

Criteria

Each nomination will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Describe how an individual's or group's work accomplished the National Fire Plan's firefighting goal to improve or enhance preparedness, suppression, and firefighter safety and training.
2. Discuss how the nominee used collaboration, coordination, partnerships, and/or communities to accomplish the National Fire Plan goals. Describe who was involved, what their role was, and how this collaboration enhanced the work or project.
3. Discuss any unusual or unique aspects of the effort or accomplishment, such as difficulties that were overcome, challenges faced, or creative solutions developed.

Excellence in Rehabilitation and Restoration

This award recognizes an individual or group for outstanding work in post-fire rehabilitation and restoration. *This category is open projects that were largely completed during calendar year 2003.* The recipient of this award will have developed procedures, methods, or other measures or mechanisms or demonstrated effort, results, innovations, collaboration or commitment that resulted in effective land treatment, valuable research, technology transfer, prevention of further damage to ecosystems and communities as a result of fire, or helped to improve land unlikely to recover naturally from fire.

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Individual or Group

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3. Two pages or less in which each of the nomination criterion are addressed separately.

Criteria

Each nomination will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Describe how an individual's or group's work accomplished the National Fire Plan's rehabilitation and restoration goal by preventing further damage to or restoring already damaged land, acquiring valuable research or methods, or sharing new technology.
2. Discuss how the nominee used collaboration, coordination, partnerships, and/or communities to accomplish the National Fire Plan goals. Describe who was involved, what their role was, and how this collaboration enhanced the work or project.
3. Discuss any unusual or unique aspects of the effort or accomplishment, such as difficulties that were overcome, challenges faced, or creative solutions developed.

Excellence in Hazardous Fuel Treatment

This award recognizes an individual or group for outstanding work in hazardous fuel treatment. *This category is open to projects that were largely completed during calendar year 2003.* The recipient of this award will have developed procedures, methods, or other measures or mechanisms or demonstrated effort, results, innovations, collaboration or commitment that resulted in effective fuel treatment, valuable research, or technology transfer, to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities, forests and rangeland.

Nominee

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2. One page or less describing the project, work or accomplishment and its significance to the National Fire Plan at the National, Regional or Local Level (please reference "*A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: 10 year Comprehensive Strategy*"). Include where and when the work occurred, who was involved, how it was planned and implemented, and why the work was important.
3. Two pages or less in which each of the nomination criterion are addressed separately.

Criteria

Each nomination will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Describe how an individual's or group's work accomplished the National Fire Plan's hazardous fuel reduction goal by managing dense forest vegetation, reducing the risk of wildfire to people, property, and natural resources, acquiring valuable research or methods, or sharing new technology.
2. Discuss how the nominee used collaboration, coordination, partnerships, and/or communities to accomplish the National Fire Plan goals. Describe who was involved, what their role was, and how this collaboration enhanced the work or project.
3. Discuss any unusual or unique aspects of the effort or accomplishment, such as difficulties that were overcome, challenges faced, or creative solutions developed.

Excellence in Community Assistance

This award recognizes an individual or group for outstanding community wildland fire mitigation work. *This category is open to projects that were largely completed during calendar year 2003.* The recipient of this award will have excelled in wildland fire prevention, education and mitigation work, collaboration with local agencies, organizations or groups, or grant work, thus enhancing the protection capabilities of rural fire departments, helping the public understand wildland fire and the management challenges it presents, and reducing the risk and impacts of wildfire to communities.

Nominee

Individual or Group

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3. Two pages or less in which each of the nomination criterion are addressed separately.

Criteria

Each nomination will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Describe how and individual's or group's work accomplished the National Fire Plan's community assistance goal by developing and implementing an exceptional prevention/education or mitigation program, working with local fire departments to increase their capability or implement an unusual project, or using the grant program to access funding to accomplish projects that benefit communities at risk from wildland fire.
2. Discuss how the nominee used collaboration, coordination, partnerships, and/or communities to accomplish the National Fire Plan goals. Describe who was involved, what their role was, and how this collaboration enhanced the work or project.
3. Discuss any unusual or unique aspects of the effort or accomplishment, such as difficulties that were overcome, challenges faced, or creative solutions developed.

Innovation in Utilization of Biomass

This award recognizes an individual or group for outstanding effort or accomplishment in the arena of biomass utilization. *This category is open to projects that have been initiated and completed since the National Fire Plan's inception in late 2000.* The recipient of this award will have used or provided leadership, guidelines, direction, or other measures and mechanisms, or demonstrated effort, results, innovations, collaboration or commitment that resulted in innovative biomass utilization technologies, projects, or other accomplishments.

Nominee

Individual or Group

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3. Two pages or less in which each of the nomination criterion are addressed separately.

Criteria

Each nomination will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Describe how an individual or group demonstrated innovation in biomass utilization by developing new uses or technologies for materials removed in hazardous fuels reduction projects.
2. Discuss how the nominee used collaboration, coordination, partnerships, and/or communities to develop or move forward biomass utilization projects. Describe who was involved, what their role was, and how this collaboration enhanced the work or project.
3. Discuss any unusual or unique aspects of the effort or accomplishment, such as difficulties that were overcome, challenges faced, or creative solutions developed.